

Torii Teller

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Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

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What's Inside



Operation Earth Day
Page 5



Children's celebration
Page 8



Swim meet
Page 12

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Station welcomes community



official USMC photo

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni will host the annual Friendship Day May 5. More than 230,000 visitors flooded the air station last year. This year's festivities include static displays, band performances, air show demonstrations, and many food and item vendors.

see story on Page 6

Station command changes hands

by Sgt. Michael Wiener
Media Chief

Colonel David T. Darrah took the helm of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni from Col. Richard Dunn Tuesday in a change of command ceremony here.

Darrah comes to Iwakuni after serving as the Fleet Marine Officer for the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command in Norfolk, Va.

"I want to tell you all as a community, that my number one priority is your body, mind and soul ... I want to make sure your expectations are met, and that you have a very happy time here," Darrah said, addressing those gathered for the ceremony.

"My goal for MCAS Iwakuni is to be the one base in the Marine Corps that everyone wants to

come to," he continued.

A CH-46 helicopter pilot by trade, Darrah is serving his first tour in Iwakuni, but one he says he is looking forward to.

"Colonel Dunn has given me a good start on the command and I'm ready to roll," said the Michigan native.

Darrah graduated from the University of North Florida and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1974. Following his Basic School graduation in 1975, he reported to Pensacola, Fla., for flight training. Throughout his career, he's been stationed with helicopter squadrons in Okinawa, Hawaii and North Carolina.

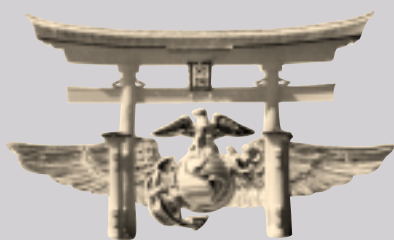
In July 1991, Darrah was frocked lieutenant colonel and took command of Marine Wing Sup-

*see **COMMAND** Page 4*



Colonel David Darrah

Torii Teller



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All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building 360, Room 7, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

Is there an event you want covered for the *Torii Teller*? Do you have an opinion to be heard? Does your unit have anything newsworthy to report? If so, we want to hear from you, call 253-5344 or e-mail olmsteadj@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

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'Best kept secret in the Marine Corps'

Former commanding officer praises community, offers advice on being heard and getting involved

by Col. Richard Dunn
Letter to the Editor

I want to take this opportunity to tell you how honored and privileged it has been to serve as your Commanding Officer for the last three years.

Message

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is truly "the best kept secret in the Marine Corps." Iwakuni is a terrific place to work, raise a family and enjoy the unique experience of living in a foreign country.

I hope each of you will take the time to get off the air station, meet Japanese people and enjoy the cultural aspect of Japan.

Praise

I also want to thank the air station staff, tenant

commands, officer's in charge, sergeants major and command master chief and other members of "team Iwakuni" who have worked so hard to make MCAS Iwakuni the "duty station of first choice" when people are looking for an overseas assignment.

Nothing happens without communication, cooperation and constructive dialogue. I could list countless examples of changes that have taken place on this air station because some Marine, Sailor, civilian, NAF employee, MLC or family member had an idea, shared it with the senior leadership via Town Hall meetings, radio call in show, Team Iwakuni meeting or just by conversation in the commissary, exchange, and post office.

Advice

If you desire that your voice or idea be heard, it will be. Complaining to your neighbor, never volunteering to help or getting involved and sitting on the fence won't help. Get up and get involved in this wonderful community.



Colonel Richard Dunn

Corps News

Riggers belt regulations change again

by Cpl. W. A. Napper Jr.
MCAS Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — The Commandant of the Marine Corps signed a Marine Administrative Message, advancing the progress of the Corps' new martial arts system one step further.

According to MARADMIN 143/01, as of May 1, the green riggers belt is no longer available for

optional wear with the utility uniform. The belt is now part of the martial arts system and is the third level of qualification for Marines. The message encourages Marines to keep their belts for when they qualify in the system.

The system, which replaces combat line training, is built on a five-tier system of qualification. Once Marines complete the initial level and qualify, they will be authorized to wear a tan-colored riggers belt. Following that are gray and green belts. According to Capt. Daniel Dukes, Education Command secretary-recorder, if Marines wish to advance in their martial arts training, they must first qualify as an instructor.

Upon instructor qualification they will then rate to wear a brown strip on their green belt. Following their green belts Marines can earn their final two — brown and black.

Dukes said one of the main reasons MARADMIN 143/01 was delayed was because of difficulties with having the dyes settle in the belts, which slowed production.

The recruit depots have been qualifying their recruits in the new martial arts system since January.



photo by Gunnery Sgt. John Olmstead

Marines will stop wearing the web belt (left) with the utility uniform, and change to a riggers belt, when completing martial arts qualification training. The belt colors are based on a five-tier system of tan, gray, green, brown and black.

Kindergarteners get set for all-day class

by Sgt. Michael Wiener
Media Chief

Children entering Matthew C. Perry Elementary School's kindergarten this fall will be the first to attend the new full-day class.

Registration begins Monday and continues until May 4.

Kindergarten is broken into two sessions — 8 to 10:30 a.m. and noon to 2:30 a.m., but next year's tentative schedule has children arriving at 8 a.m. and learning until 1:45 p.m.

"We're still not sure on the end time," said Kim Bertola, M.C. Perry Elementary School principal. "This

has been a change coming from Department of Defense Dependant Schools Headquarters trying to implement full-day kindergarten throughout DoDDs."

The change in program will be most beneficial to the students, according to Bertola.

"Teachers will have more time to individualize instruction, engage students in inquiry, study concepts in depth, assess students' progress and ensure children are on task," said Bertola. "Full-day schedules allow for more long term, in depth study of curriculum units and opportunities for the development of social skills in both individual and cooperative

group formats."

Despite the additional hours, Bertola assures parents the curriculum remains developmentally appropriate.

"We're not going to cram more information into it and make it first grade," Bertola said. "The goal is to take the kindergarten skills and teach them more thoroughly."

With the half-day program, two teachers each teach two classes. Next fall, the number of classes may be four or more, noted Bertola, which means more teachers will be needed.

"We're strongly encouraging parents to register their children, so we

know if we'll need four, five or even six teachers for next year," she said.

Children who will be age 5 before Oct. 31 are eligible to attend kindergarten and should be registered.

"Packets can be picked up and filled out in advance to make the registration process faster," added Bertola.

There are other DoDD schools running the half-day programs, mostly attributed to a lack of facilities, according to Bertola.

"The program is definitely a benefit to the kids. They'll be that much more ready for first grade. They'll have that much more experience and literacy skills," Bertola said.

SOFA licensing explained

by Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson
Torii Teller Staff

Being able to drive is a good way to see the countryside, but anyone planning on driving while living in Japan, will need a Status of Forces Agreement drivers license from the Provost Marshal's Office.

Getting a license is not as simple as walking in and filling out a form. There are a few steps that must be followed and a few suggestions from the Pass and Registration Office to make getting a SOFA license a quick and painless process.

"Anyone who is going to drive a SOFA plated vehicle needs to have a SOFA license," said Lance Cpl. Eric Withers, Pass and Registration licensing noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "First, everybody has to take the Driving in Japan class if they are going to get a license here." In this class, drivers will learn the Japanese road signs and local laws.

The second class necessary to obtain a license for Military personnel 25 years old and under, is the Driver's Improvement Class given by Station Safety. According to Withers, if drivers are 26 and over, or have proof of the Drivers Improvement Class here or in the continental United States, they don't need the class.

Family member spouses only need a valid state-side license, identification card and Driving in Japan test to get a license. Family member children must be 16 years old to be able to drive, but for "On Base Only." They must also have a permission form signed by one of their parents, provided at PMO Pass and Registration Office.

Once both classes are completed, there is only one piece of paperwork standing between an E-5 and below military member and their license.

"They need a letter from their command to have a SOFA license," Withers said. "It needs to be signed by their Commanding Officer or whoever is acting as their CO.

Individuals can get the letter format from Marine Corps Air Station Order P5560.8A or from their unit's administrative shop.

"From there, they take it back to their section, and their staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge or noncommissioned officer-in-charge approves it," said Sgt. Jimmy Tumlinson, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administrative chief. "Once approved, they bring it back and we will route it to their Commanding Officer."

The form must be returned with a Driver's Improvement card before being approved by the Commanding Officer.

Once it is signed, the original copy needs to be taken to Pass and Registration with a valid state-side license, ID, and proof of Drivers Improvement, if applicable. If the individual does not have a valid stateside license they can get a learner's permit.

According to Withers, the process can take anywhere from a couple of days to one month depending on the individual's sense of urgency.

"Once they get their SOFA license, E-4's and below have to drive on base for 30 days," Withers said. "E-5's must drive on base for 15 days."

Due to the Liberty Campaign Plan, E-3's and below cannot drive unless they have been approved for a one-year or more extension.

There are also exemptions for those who are on an extended tour with family members, according to Withers. Exemption forms for situations are in the order. Another exemption is officers and staff noncommissioned officers with the unit deployment program, who can get a regular SOFA license and one sergeant from each UDP squadron can get a SOFA license to drive a rental vehicle.

"The SOFA license allows drivers to operate a SOFA plate vehicle and a Japanese vehicle provided they meet all the insurance requirements," Withers said. "It allows them to drive a four-

News Briefs

Towel Return

The Main Gym urges patrons to return all courtesy towels. Towels can be returned to the towel hampers located throughout the gym.

No Torii Teller

The *Torii Teller* newspaper will not be published on May 4, due to Friendship Day preparation. The next edition of the *Torii Teller* will be printed on May 11.

North Gate Traffic

The Provost Marshal's Office will be reinforcing the closure of the North Gate between 7 and 8 a.m., for vehicles that are not registered for construction purposes. All other vehicles will not be allowed through the gate during this time. The increased traffic has caused congestion problems.

School Survey Rescheduled

The Department of Defense Education Activity biennial Customer Satisfaction Survey for parents, students, and teachers, which was planned for April, will be rescheduled for the 2001-2002 school year.

Lost and Found

The Provost Marshal's Office has many lost and found items, such as wallets, credit cards, keys, cameras and other miscellaneous items that need to be returned to their rightful owners. For more information call PMO at 253-3471.

see **SOFA LICENCE** next page

Hornets go head to head against Falcons

by Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson
Torii Teller Staff

While pawn to king four is a common move to open a chess game, similar moves have also been carried out in the skies above Japan with one goal in mind – checkmate.

The players are Marine F/A-18 Hornet pilots stationed here and Air Force F-16CG Fighting Falcon pilots from Osan Air Force Base Korea. Their game is a kind of high-speed aerial chess where every move, good or bad, is a valuable learning experience.

The Dissimilar Aircraft Combat Training that began April 16 and concludes today will provide pilots from both services the chance to engage a model of aircraft unlike their own.

"In war we will fly against dissimilar aircraft," said Capt. Gregory Hauck, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 F/A-18D Hornet pilot. "When your fighting against an F-16 it's just different. There are lots of different aircraft in the skies, and basically you are having to engage targets and radar and juggle it all at about 400 knots."

The home players during the 10 days of training were Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 242, 212 and 533. The visiting team is the 36th Fighter Squadron. The pieces laid on the board were two colors, blue for the defenders and red for the enemy.

"In the morning we were red air and they were blue air," Hauck said. "In the afternoon we switched roles."

Putting a F/A-18 Hornet up against another of its kind does some good, but the two aircraft react and handle the same. By putting the two varieties up against each other all similarities are ejected, and pilots on both sides are left with the challenge of figuring out how to engage an aircraft that acts nothing like theirs.

"There are things you learn from airplanes just like your own, but there are also things you learn from dissimilar aircraft," said Air Force Capt. Pete Fry, 36th Fighter Squadron F-16 Pilot. "The big advantage is seeing an airplane that looks different and fighting an airplane that fights different."

After the aircraft head away from the air station they take their positions on opposite sides of a training area over the Sea of Japan or the Inland Sea and prepare to engage.

There were a variety of scenarios played out, according to Hauck, each with a specific purpose in mind.

"When we played as red air, we simulated MiG-29s trying to get past F/A-18s, and strike a Marine amphibious group in the water," Fry said. "We deliberately set ourselves up with difficult scenarios."

Some of the scenarios that VMFA-242 played out as blue air were to escort bombers onto a point target. The big question is how do pilots know if they have made a kill or been killed. With the assistance of radar, a kill can be determined and the "downed" aircraft moves out of the fight and waits for it to end.

Fights last around five minutes, noted Fry and up to four scenarios can be accomplished

during one flight.

"It's very demanding. Everything happens very fast," said Hauck. "When you have many different aircraft moving at high speeds, things happen very quickly."

It is impossible to understand what went right and wrong at such a high speed in the sky, so it is necessary for pilots to return to the briefing room where each sides actions are dissected.

"For every flight we do, it's a one and a half hour brief before and up to a four-hour debrief," Hauck said. "We will try to figure out what happened. The Air Force pilots do things differently, and it's good to compare the two different styles."

One thing the Air Force pilots learned was the true difference between the aircraft.

"I'm used to fighting another pilot who keeps his speed up," Fry said. "The F-16 engages its targets at a high rate of speed while the F/A-18 does better at slow speeds. There are also differences in terminology and tactics."

Both Marine and Air Force pilots agreed that engaging another human mind at basic fighter maneuvers is the most physically demanding. The training here is a rare chance for two services to hone their skills should they ever need to go to war.

"It's just as important as a grunt going to the rifle range and firing his rifle," Hauck said. "Any time you get practice on somebody that is different, it's good."

COMMAND from Page 1

port Squadron 174. In April of the following year, Darrah was permanently promoted to lieutenant colonel.

In July of 1997, Darrah was again promoted to his present rank and assigned to duty as Fleet Marine Officer, for the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Va.

"This command has been a long time coming," Darrah said. "I think we have a good team here."

After serving the Iwakuni community for three years, Dunn moves on to Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan to serve as the Assistant Chief of Staff of Operations. Though he looks forward to new challenges and op-

portunities, Dunn says he'll miss the air station, the community and the "gracious" Japanese hosts.

"There are so many people to thank in a time like this ... but I really want to say that nothing happens without dedication and teamwork. These Marines and Sailors are absolutely the best I've had the opportunity to serve with," Dunn said. "The relationship we have with our Japanese neighbors is as good as it's ever been."

In closing, the new station commanding officer wished his predecessor luck both in the Marine Corps and afterward.

"Gambatte," he said to Dunn, a Japanese word meaning do your best and good luck.



photo by Sgt. Michael Wiener

Colonel Richard Dunn passes the air station colors to Col. David Darrah in the change of command ceremony held Tuesday here.

SOFA LICENCE from Page 3

wheeled vehicle, not a motorcycle." Motorcycle licenses require classes and a letter for E-5's and below signed by their Commanding Officer.

According to Withers, some of the most common problems that delay the processing of a SOFA license are incorrect letter formats, and not knowing when they completed the Driving in Japan test or Driver's Improvement classes.

For more information on the Driving in Japan test contact the Pass and Registration Office at 253-3432. For information on the Drivers' Improvement class call Station Safety at 253-6381.

Marines pick up trash for Earth Day



A variety of items were pulled from the seawall and segregated into plastic garbage bags by volunteers during the Earth Day seawall cleanup April 19.

by Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson
Torii Teller Staff

More than 100 volunteers came together to do their part for Earth Day by collecting trash from the air station seawall April 19.

There were many motivating factors involved with the clean up of areas aboard the air station, but one stood out overall.

"I'm helping to make the base more beautiful," said Lance Cpl. Monica Paz, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 receiving clerk. "I care about where I live and where my fellow Marines live."

The annual event gave many a good part of the day away from routine work, but as with any Marine mission, the plan was carried out quickly and with success.

The goals of the cleanup were to collect as much debris and waste during low tide along the Monzen River, Inland Sea seawall, Penny Lake and Diamond Lake, according to Paul Hudson, environmental trainer.

"The cleanup is also to promote to the Japanese people that we care about the air station and the community," Hudson said. "When you look at the seawall now, you will only see what is natural."

Unnatural items ultimately accumulated to fill more than one large truck. According to Hudson, garbage pulled from the drink was anything from soda cans to shopping carts and bicycles.

It was the volunteers that enabled the trash to get out of its improper resting place and find a home in the back of a garbage truck.

"It was a larger turnout than last year," said Lance Cpl. Graham Christopher, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron disbursing technician.

One of the big draws to the volunteers, aside from cleaning up

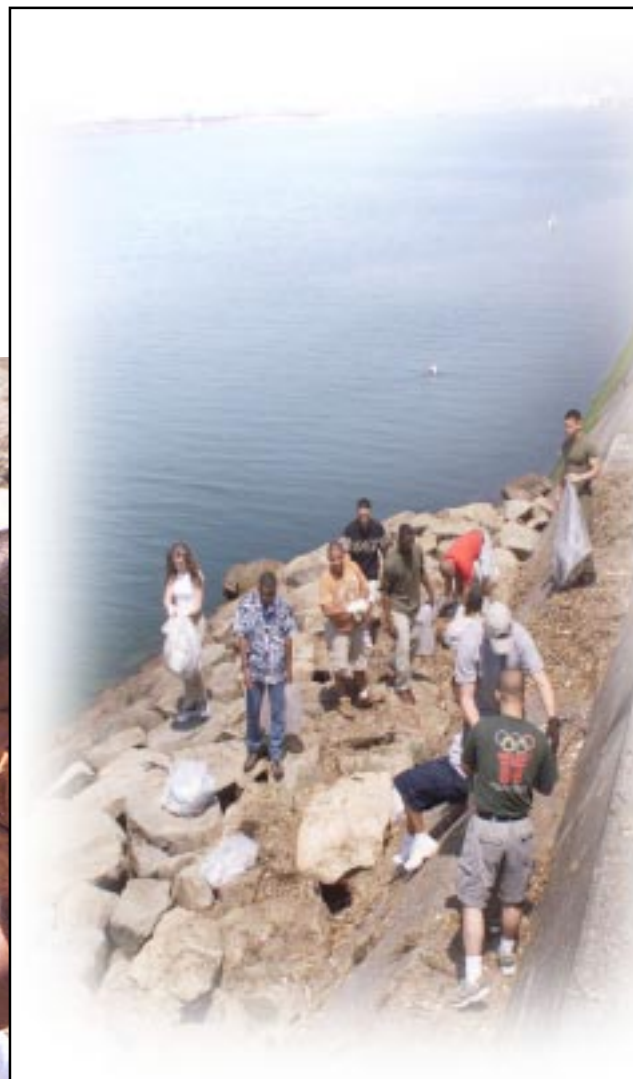
the environment, was a lively Earth Day picnic, sponsored by the Enlisted Spouses Club, Latinos Unidos and the Senior Enlisted Association.

However, the picnic could not start until all the trash had been collected.

Volunteers segregated all the trash into combustible and non-combustible, and loaded the bags on trucks.

Although Volunteers only spent one day cleaning, Hudson would like the idea of a clean environment to stay with them all the time.

"I would hope that what they would get out of this is the realization to keep things clean," Hudson said. "I would like the base to promote an Earth Year, not just an Earth Day."



photos by Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson

Marines sort through large piles of seaweed to pick up the garbage from the seawall.

Groups of volunteers took on the task of cleaning one section of seawall.

Air Show Schedule May 5

9:15-9:45 a.m.	Canadian Forces SkyHawk Parachute Jump Team
10-10:30 a.m.	PACAF F-16 Flight Demonstration
10:40-11:10 a.m.	Cosmos Zoom Ultralight Plane Flight Demonstration
11:20-11:50 a.m.	Red Baron Extra 300 Flight Demonstration
Noon-1:10 p.m.	Intermission
1:10-1:40 p.m.	PACAF F-16 Flight Demonstration
1:50-2:10 p.m.	HH-46D Search and Rescue Demonstration
2:15-2:20 p.m.	JASDF F-15 Fly By
2:25-2:55 p.m.	Red Baron Extra 300 Flight Demonstration

Friendship Day Reception May 4

☑ Sakura Theater

5:30-6:20 p.m.	Performers available for autographs (Theater opens 5 p.m.)
6:30 p.m.	Children invited to stay for early showing of Pokemon III

☑ Club Iwakuni

6:30 - 8 p.m.	Friendship Day Poster Contest Winner's awarded prizes and plaques given to event participants
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RIGHT: A crowd of visitors gathers outside the Main Gate before Friendship Day.
BELOW: Sailors from 11th Dental Co., served up burgers and hotdogs during Friendship Day last year.



Group Events Schedule May 5

8:40-8:55 a.m.	III MEF Band mini-concert at Main Gate
9 a.m.	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Main Gate
9:05 a.m.	III MEF Band mini-concert at Cherry Blossom Triangle
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Chicken Lips band on stage
10:30-11:45 a.m.	YEG dance group on stage
11-11:30 a.m.	Military Working Dog demonstration at parade field
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	III MEF Band concert on stage
12:30-1:20 p.m.	Chicken Lips band on stage
1-1:30 p.m.	Military Working Dog demonstration at parade field
1:30-1:45 p.m.	YEG dance group on stage
1:45-2:45 p.m.	Alliance band on stage
2:45-3 p.m.	YEG dance group on stage

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☑ Anyone needing help should go to ①, main gate
- ☑ Military and Japan Self-Defense Force personnel should go to ②, emergency assistance
- ☑ Political activities are prohibited
- ☑ Please bring your own trash

photo by Cpl. Richard Longhi

Friendship Day

Main Gate: The Main Gate will be open for all modes of traffic until 7 a.m., at which time it will close. At 9 a.m., the gate will reopen allowing only pedestrian, bicycle, and motorcycle traffic entry and exit. All cyclists and motorcyclists will dismount and walk their vehicles to the designated parking areas adjacent to PMO and the Club Iwakuni parking lots. Two wheeled vehicles will not be allowed beyond the designated parking areas.

Monzen Gate: The Monzen Gate will open at 5:30 a.m. for Marine Corps Air Station and Japan Maritime Self-

Defense Force personnel who reside aboard the Air Station. After 7 a.m., admittance will be restricted to personnel residing in the Monzen 1 area. Also at this time, Freed access will be restricted to pedestrian traffic only. At 2 p.m., the Monzen Gate will be opened for bound traffic only and then will be closed for normal traffic once traffic is alleviated.

"C" Gate: The "C" Gate will be open at 5:30 a.m. for four wheeled vehicles only, with the exception of dismounted motorcycles, which will be allowed to enter. All other vehicles will be directed to the parking area on the side parking apron. At Flight Line Gate 4, Street and Newell Street, at 8:30 a.m., the traffic will be redirected onto "S" and

official USMC photo

runway

⑥

⑤

Tower

②

①

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Sakura Theater

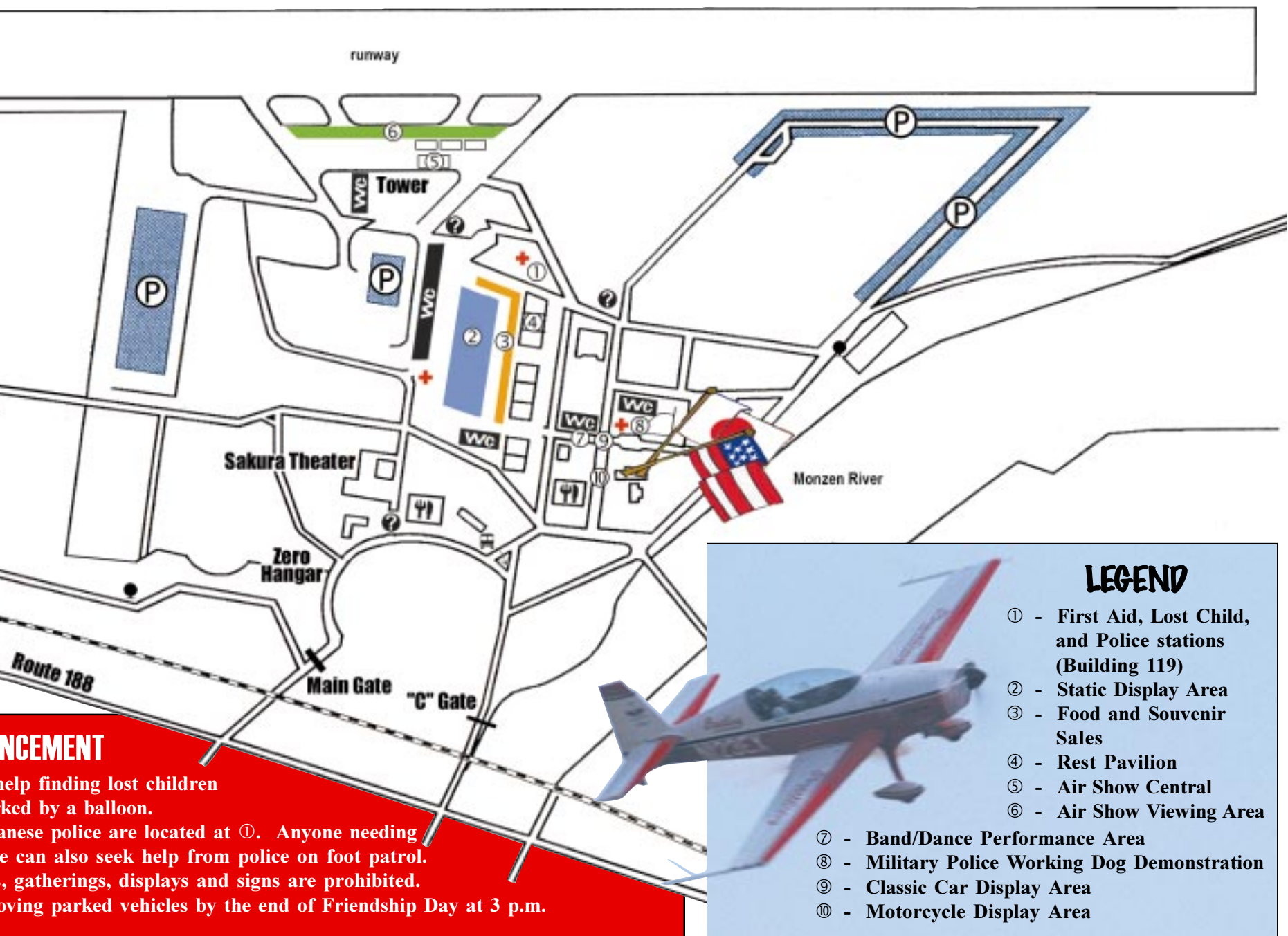
Zero Hangar

Main Gate

"C" Gate

Monzen River

Route 188



LEGEND

- ① - First Aid, Lost Child, and Police stations (Building 119)
- ② - Static Display Area
- ③ - Food and Souvenir Sales
- ④ - Rest Pavilion
- ⑤ - Air Show Central
- ⑥ - Air Show Viewing Area
- ⑦ - Band/Dance Performance Area
- ⑧ - Military Police Working Dog Demonstration
- ⑨ - Classic Car Display Area
- ⑩ - Motorcycle Display Area

ANNOUNCEMENT

help finding lost children
lost by a balloon.

Japanese police are located at ①. Anyone needing
help can also seek help from police on foot patrol.

Alcohol, gatherings, displays and signs are prohibited.

Moving parked vehicles by the end of Friendship Day at 3 p.m.

Friendship Day 2001

to work or
At 8 a.m.,
to occu-
Housing
om Bridge
pedestrian
ridge and
for out-
will reopen
congestion

the designated parking areas. City buses
will travel west on 7th Street to Cherry
Blossom Triangle to discharge/load
passengers, and then exit back through
"C" Gate. Pedestrian, bicycle, motor-
cycle, or tour bus traffic will not be
allowed to enter or exit "C" Gate, from
the time the gate opens until traffic is
alleviated.

North Gate: The North Gate will
ope at 5:30 a.m. for four wheeled
vehicles and tour buses only. Pedestrian,
bicycle, or motorcycle traffic will not be
allowed to enter or exit the North Gate,
and will be redirected to the Main Gate
until traffic congestion is alleviated.

Gate 3: Private Organizations will
be allowed to enter the Flight Line from
5:30 to 8 a.m. on Friendship Day, and be
allowed to park adjacent to Building 411
(Education Building). Each organization

is required to pre-register their vehicles
at PMO and display a valid PMO Flight
Line issued pass in order to gain access
through Gate 3. Private Organizations
will not be allowed to enter the static
display area from the Northside at
anytime due to heavy vehicle and
pedestrian traffic. Once identified,
vehicles requiring handicapped parking
will also be directed to park at Building
411.

Additional Traffic Items: Autho-
rized vehicle traffic other than Friendship
Day traffic aboard MCAS Iwakuni from
8:30 a.m. until traffic congestion is
alleviated, is limited to emergency
vehicles and mission essential govern-
ment vehicles only. The riding of
bicycles, skateboards, or roller blades is
prohibited until traffic congestion is
alleviated.



photo by Gunnery Sgt. Mark Zeid

Sergeant Joseph DiRicco, Search and Rescue swimmer, assists a family out of an HH-46 helicopter on display during Friendship Day 1999.

Japanese tradition honors children

by Gunnery Sgt. John Olmstead
Torii Teller Staff

Few countries in the world honor their youth with special holidays as does Japan. These special days, called "Hina-matsuri" or Girl's Day, and "Tango-no-Sekku," or Boy's Day, show the importance of giving guidance to children and to promote their health and happiness.

Established more than six centuries ago as separate holidays, the trend in more recent years has been to combine the two days as one national holiday, called "Kodomo-no-hi" or Children's Day, on May 5. However, most Japanese families choosing tradition, continue to

observe the two days separately.

Girl's Day held on March 3 is normally associated with the displaying of a "Hina-ningyo," or dolls dressed in traditional kimonos, placed on tiers, with the emperor and empress on top and the maidens on the bottom.

Boy's Day held on May 5, is also known for the traditional custom of displaying warrior dolls and miniature suits of armor on a stand in front of the home.

For the Children's Day celebration, several days before the festivities, long streamers resembling carp are flown from bamboo poles, along with a colorful banner called "fukinagashi." The carp streamers are made of cloth or paper and vary in size.

In Japan, the carp is considered the most spirited fish. It is said that the carp can swim up waterfalls. The flying of the symbolic carp represents the hope of the

parents that their sons will grow healthy and strong.

As part of the traditional celebration, parents and children alike take baths in hot water containing "shobu-no-ha," or Japanese iris leaves. This ancient custom is believed to have started five centuries ago. It was thought that the iris leaf had the power to drive out evil spirits with its pleasant scent.

The last days of Golden Week, from May 3 to 5, wraps up the festivities for both Boy's Day and Children's Day. The last day is the day for the children to enjoy what they like to do the

most. This day is also marked with special meals, normally the child's favorite dish.

Always stressing the importance of good character, these observances symbolize the love, care and education parents must give children so they can grow into responsible adults.



Koinobori, long streamers resembling carp, will be displayed for Kodomo-no-hi, hoping children will grow up healthy and strong.

Out the gate

Note: Japanese who do not speak English may answer the phone numbers provided.

Kintai Bridge Festival

The Kintai Bridge Festival will be held on Sunday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event includes a parade in samurai costume, Japanese drum performance, old style gun firing demonstration and much more. For more information call 41-1477.

Cruise Around Miyajima

Miyajima Tourist Association will offer a two-hour cruise tour around Miyajima on May 28. Tour participants should meet in front of Miyajima Pier at 10:30 a.m. The fee, which includes a meal, is 2,500 yen for adults and 1,500 yen for children.

Reservations are required. Fees need to be paid in advance at a Japanese post office. Call 0829-44-2011.

Hiroshima Flower Festival

Hiroshima Flower Festival will be held between May 3 and 5 at Heiwa Odori, a street along the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima City. People march in a parade, dancing and playing instruments. Call 082-247-6738.

Shimonoseki Strait Festival

"Shimonoseki Strait Festival" will be held on May 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. around Kanmon Strait in Shimonoseki City. There will be a parade and a reenactment of a historical ship battle of nearly 150 warships. It takes 10 minutes from the Shimonoseki Exit of Chugoku Express Way. For more information call 0832-23-1644.

Hagiyaaki Festival

A pottery festival will be held at Hagi City between May 1 and 5, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This is an annual event where approximately 50 pottery shops gather. For more information call 0838-25-3333.

Fukuyama Rose Festival

Fukuyama City will hold a rose festival on May 19 and 20 at Bara Park and Midori-Machi Park in Fukuyama City. A flea market, rose contest, and rose parade are planned for the event. Call 0849-28-1043.



Classified Ads

Vehicles for sale

—1986 Toyota Sprinter, white, 4-door, PW/PDL, must sell ASAP, JCI till July 2001, \$1,600/obo. Call Sgt. Mejias at 253-5370 dwh or 253-2870 awl.

—1988 Mitsubishi Delica, 4WD, diesel van, 5-speed, AM/FM cassette, A/C, JCI till November 2002, \$2,600. Call Marla Alexander at 34-3237.

—1988 Honda, sedan, red, PSC move, JCI till June 2001, \$200. Call Deborah Styron at 253-2028.

—1988 Toyota Town Ace, 4WD, 7-pass van, ice-maker, hot/cold box, electric locks, windows and curtains, JCI till October 2002, \$1,500. Call Toni at 253-2599.

—1988 Mitsubishi Lancer, 4-door sedan, A/C, heater, manual transmission, JCI till February 2002, \$600/obo. Call Eve at 253-2600.

—1988 Toyota Corolla, 4-speed, A/C, recent tune-up, JCI till December 2001, \$1,500/obo. Call Master Gunnery Sgt. Pulido at 253-3006 dwh or 253-2204 awl.

—1989 Mitsubishi Pajero, black, 4WD, auto, PW, road tax has been paid, low miles, JCI till May 2002, asking \$2,500/obo. Call Sgt. Archambault at 253-2783.

—1989 Honda Civic, hatchback, JCI till November 2001, \$1,000/obo. Call HMCS Stroud at 253-6467 dwh or 253-7898 awl.

—1989 Honda Legend (Acura), charcoal gray, leather interior, sunroof, 18 CD changer, power everything, JCI till August 2002, \$2,200/obo. Call Betsy at 253-2562.

—1991 Honda Civic, JCI till March 2002, \$1,400/obo. Call Gunnery Sgt. Kraus at 253-3736 dwh or 253-2370 awl.

—1991 Toyota LiteAce, van, dual A/C, 8-seat, two new tires, JCI till September 2002, recent tune-up, \$2,500/obo. Call Master Gunnery Sgt. Pulido at 253-3006 dwh or 253-2204 awl.

—1991 Nissan, "Hardbody" pickup, fresh oil change and tune up, auto, PW, A/C, JCI till October 2001, \$1,250. Call Lt. Col. Collins at 253-2211.

—1993 Mazda Familia, 4-door sedan, AM/FM cassette, A/C, auto, JCI till May 2002, \$1,300. Call Marla Alexander at 34-3237.

—1995 Honda Shuttle, wagon, 4-door, CD player, full-size spare tire, low miles, JCI till February 2003, \$3,900/obo. Call Peter at 253-3399 dwh or 21-3766 awl.

Motorcycle for sale

—1997 Kawasaki Vulcan Classic, 1,500cc, custom mustang seat, custom pipes, windshield, saddlebags, two full-face helmets, JCI till November 2001, \$6,500. Call Phil Avery at 253-6827 dwh or 253-2667 awl.

Other items for sale

—Coffee and two end tables, redwood w/brass accents, \$125; small dining table w/four chairs, \$75; doggy door for sliding glass door, medium-sized door, \$75. Call Colin or Cecilia at 253-2324.

—1992 Spectrum 165 hang glider by Wills Wing, w/cross country harness Z-3 and emergency parachute, must be a rated hang glider pilot, \$4,000. Call Gunnery Sgt. Jay White at 253-5661 dwh or 253-2465 awl.

—Toyotomi and Corona kerosene heaters, \$75 each; Power Japanese CD-ROM multimedia, \$20; garden hose w/attachment for Japanese faucet, \$5; Japanese propane tank w/adaptor, \$15; five Coleman 16,402 propane bottles, \$8 for all, 9x12 gray carpet and 9x12 beige carpet, \$50 each; 12x12 beige carpet, \$60; 12x15 beige carpet,

\$70. Will deliver if needed. Call Marla Alexander at 34-3237.

—Recreational vehicle, PSC move June, \$200. Call Deborah Styron at 253-2028.

—Small two-seat Japanese-style couch, \$50. Call Rebecca Dewbre at 253-4122 dwh or 253-2960 awl.

—Wall-to-wall Berber carpet and padding, fits four bedroom CO's housing, however, this is a lot of carpet and will cover any unit on base, when new \$3,500, sell for \$250; complete fishing outfit, 10.5-foot aluminum John boat w/live-well 8hp Yamaha motor, Minkota trolling motor, gas tank, heavy-duty battery, swivel boat seats, depth finder, life jackets, paddle, \$850; tow matching high-back swivel rockers, emerald green velour material, \$25 for both. Call Lt. Col. Collins at 253-2211.

—Japanese refrigerator, \$75; Japanese washer, \$75; kerosene heater, \$15; electric/kerosene heater, \$40; gas two-burner stove, \$50; microwave cart, \$10. Call Nicole Pulido at 253-4121 dwh or 253-2204 awl.

—American-style carpet, size 4x7, bought \$140, asking \$50; Japanese-style rug, \$20; TV table, \$20; coral w/stand, \$13; scuba diving weight, lead, \$3.50. Call Setsuko Rhoady at 32-9001 after 1 p.m.

MCCS job openings

—General Manager, Club Complex, NF-04, regular full time.

—Operations Inspector, Main Exchange Security, NF-03, regular full time.

—Retail Area Supervisor, Military Clothing, NF-03, regular full time.

—Retail Area supervisor, Sound Shop, NF-03, regular full time.

—Family Team Building, Program Specialist, NF-03, regular full time.

—Senior Sales Associate, Military Clothing, NF-02, regular full time.

—Store Worker Leader, Main Exchange, NL-01, regular full time and regular part time.

—Sales Associate/Cashier, Sound Shop, NF-01, regular full time.

—Store Worker Foreman, Main Complex, NS-02, regular full time.

CHRO Job openings

—Child Development Education Specialist, GS-1701-9/11, open until filled.

—Speech Pathologist, GS-0665-12, open until April 30.

—Education Technician, GS-1702-04/05, open until filled.

—Family Child Care Director, GS-1701-09, open until filled.

—Family Child Care Director, GS-1701-05/07/09, open until filled.

—Child Development Education Specialist, GS-1701-07, open until filled.

—Recreation Specialist (Youth Activities), GS-188-05/07, open until filled.

—Sales Store Checker, open until filled.

(For additional information and appropriate forms call CHRO, Building 360, Room 32, at 253-6828.)

To submit your ads or announcement ...

Torii Teller accepts ads/announcement for nonprofit organizations and groups only. Briefs run on space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Thursday. Torii Teller reserves the right to edit to fit space. To submit, stop by Building 360, Room 7 to fill out a form.

Weekend's Weather

Today Saturday Sunday Monday



Tide Table

	Low tide		High tide	
	Time	Size	Time	Size
April 27	5:44 a.m.	2.77	11:35 a.m.	9.43
	5:50 p.m.	0.18	---	---
April 28	6:26 a.m.	3.50	12:29 a.m.	10.62
	6:32 p.m.	0.70	12:17 p.m.	8.93
April 29	7:14 a.m.	4.28	1:11 a.m.	10.05
	6:32 p.m.	0.70	12:53 p.m.	8.33
April 30	8:14 a.m.	4.96	2:11 a.m.	9.38
	8:26 p.m.	2.27	1:47 p.m.	7.67
May 1	9:38 a.m.	5.25	3:24 a.m.	8.82
	9:50 p.m.	2.86	3:11 p.m.	7.18
May 2	11:20 a.m.	4.75	4:59 a.m.	8.71
	11:32 p.m.	2.83	5:05 p.m.	7.31
May 3	12:32 a.m.	3.68	6:17 a.m.	9.09
	---	---	6:35 p.m.	8.19



Movie Schedule

Friday

10 a.m./7 p.m. No Retreat No Return (PG)
1 p.m./9 p.m. Fugitive (PG-13)
11 p.m. Mad Max (R)

Saturday

10 a.m./7 p.m. Star Trek IV (PG)
1 p.m./9 p.m. Memphis Belle (PG-13)
11 p.m. Blazing Saddles (R)

Sunday

10 a.m./7 p.m. Bass Pro Hunting And Fishing Series (NR)
1 p.m./9 p.m. Bring It On (PG-13)
11 p.m. Hollow Man (R)

Monday

10 a.m./7 p.m. American Graffiti (PG)
1 p.m./9 p.m. Deep End Of The Ocean (PG-13)
11 p.m. The French Connection (R)

Tuesday

10 a.m./7 p.m. The Empire Strikes Back (PG)
1 p.m./9 p.m. Here On Earth (PG-13)
11 p.m. Bless The Child (R)

Wednesday

10 a.m./7 p.m. The Hunt For Red October (PG)
1 p.m./9 p.m. Held Up (PG-13)
11 p.m. Lost Souls (R)

Thursday

10 a.m./7 p.m. Big Top Pee Wee (PG)
1 p.m./9 p.m. Best In The Show (PG-13)
11 p.m. Billy Elliot (R)

Sakura Theater

Friday

7 p.m. See Spot Run
10 p.m. Down To Earth

Saturday

4 p.m. See Spot Run
7 p.m. U R A Star Talent Show
10 p.m. The Mexican

Sunday

4 p.m. See Spot Run
7 p.m. The Mexican

Monday

7 p.m. Down To Earth

Tuesday

7 p.m. See Spot Run

Wednesday

7 p.m. The Mexican

Thursday

Closed

See Spot Run (PG)

Rated PG for crude humor, language and comic violence. (97 minutes)

Gordon is a mailman who has never met a dog he couldn't handle. Until one day when he offers to baby-sit the son of his neighbor and soon finds himself with an FBI agent's drug-sniffing dog, who has escaped from a witness protection program.

Down To Earth (PG-13)

Rated PG-13 for language, sexual humor and some drug reference. (88 minutes)

Lance Barton (Chris Rock) is a comedian dreaming to perform at New York City's Apollo Theater before it closes its doors forever. One night, while riding his bike, Lance is crushed by a truck. Before he can come to terms with what has happened, he is strolling through Heaven, talking to Mr. King (Chazz Palminteri) and Keyes (Eugene Levy). Mr. King agrees to returning Lance to New York, only instead of being a black bike messenger, Lance is now a powerful white businessman who happens to be the enemy of Sontee (Regina King).

The Mexican (R)

Rated R for violence and language. (128 minutes)

Jerry Welbach, a reluctant bagman, has been given two ultimatums: The first is from his mob boss to travel to Mexico and retrieve a priceless antique pistol, known as "The Mexican" or suffer the consequences. The second is from his girlfriend Samantha to end his association with the mob.

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. Comments can be directed to MCCS at 253-4003.

Iwakuni's Theaters

Kokusai:

April 27 - May 25
"The Whole Nine Yards" - 1:05 p.m., 5:05 p.m., (Sat. only) 9:05 p.m.
"The Familyman" - 2:50 p.m., 6:50 p.m., (Sat. only) 10:50 p.m.

New Central I:

April 27 - May 6
No English Movies

New Central II:

April 27 - May 6
"The Mexican" - Time schedule not available at time of print

New Central III:

April 27 - May 6
"Hannibal" - Time schedule not available at time of print

Education



Test Schedule

Tuesdays/

- Fridays** - College Level Examination Program
- DANTES Subject Standardized Test

(Registration opens at 7:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. each day.)

- May 23** - ACT Examination

- May 21** - Electronic Data Processing Test

- May 24** - Scholastic Assessment Tests

- May 30** - Defense Language Aptitude Battery
- Defense Language Proficiency Test

- May 31** - Armed Forces Classification Test

There is no fee for military personnel; civilians pay (money order only): CLEP \$46, DANTES \$27, ACT \$38 and SAT \$39, GED \$63 (money order only). Test must be paid by check or money order. Call 253-3855 or stop by the Community Services Building, Room 101.

Community



Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous open meetings are held on Sunday at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. A closed meeting is held each Monday at 11:30 a.m. All meetings are held in Room 103 at Building 1104. For more information call 31-8428.

Medical Clinic Health Promotions

Tobacco Cessation Courses will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on May 23, 25, 30, June 1, and June 20, 22, 27, 29. People must attend all four sessions. Cholesterol, nutrition and hypertension counseling will also be offered on an individual basis by calling 253-3266.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Matthew C. Perry Elementary Partners is sponsoring a week-long lunch buffet for their teachers between May 7 and 11. If you would like to donate a dish or assist, call Teresa Monzon at 253-2389.

Baby Playgroup

Baby Playgroup is held every Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. in Building 553, Room 339 for parents and their babies from birth to 12 months old. Different topics and discussions are presented each week. For more information call 253-4562.

M.C. Perry Elementary School Carnival

The M.C. Perry Elementary School Carnival will be held on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the MAC Dome. The ICC information fair will be combined with the event. The entire community is invited. Game tickets can be purchased prior to April 28 at the Elementary School or during the event. Call 253-2286 or 253-3213.

Latinos Unidos Dinner Dance

Latinos Unidos will host a Dinner Dance starting 5:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Club Iwakuni. Members are highly encouraged to attend along

with friends and guests. There is a fee. For more information call Gunnery Sgt. Arrieta at 253-2150 or Sgt. Rivera at 253-6851.

Sure Start Program

Sure Start Program at M.C. Perry Elementary School is a no-cost, preschool program, for children who will be 4 years of age by Oct. 31. It is available for E-1s through E-5s. This is a full-day (6-hour) program. Applications for the 2001-2002 school year can be picked up at the front office of the elementary school. Call 253-4383.

Civilian Human Resources Office

Local Employment Orientation

Civilian Human Resources Office provides the monthly briefing for Iwakuni local job seekers on May 15 from 9-10 a.m. at Community Services Building 411, Room 216 and 217. Advanced sign-up is required by calling 253-6828.

RESUMIX Training

A new application process started at Iwakuni on March 1. The RESUMIX is used by the Navy to fill merit promotion civilian job vacancies for GS-15 and below, and Wage Grade positions. The CHRO will provide valuable information on RESUMIX on May 15 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Community Services Building, Room 216 and 217. Advanced sign-up is required by calling 253-6828.

HRO Formal Training Opportunities

The station CHRO will present three training opportunities the week of May 14-18.

—Dealing with Difficult People - May 14

—Problem Solving - May 18

—Civilian Personnel Management - May 15-17

All three classes will be held in Building 1104, Yujo Hall. For more information call 253-3455 or stop by Building 360, Room 30.

Marine Corps Community Services

Talent Show

The URA Star Talent Show will take place on Saturday at the Sakura Theater. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the show will start at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Call 253-6184.

President's Scholarship

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Iwakuni are accepting nominations for a \$1,000 President's Student Service Challenge scholarship, awarded for outstanding community service. Applicants must be a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Iwakuni, must be a high school junior or senior, and must have at least 100 volunteer community service hours. The deadline for applications is May 10. Call Youth Activities at 253-5549 or Club Tunnel at 253-5549.

Resume Writing

All job seekers are welcome to attend a resume writing workshop on Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m., in the Community Services Building 411, Room 217. Call 253-6439.

Military Pre-retirement Seminar

Advance registration is open for the Military

Pre-retirement seminar to be held on June 11-15. Military personnel and their spouses anticipating retirement within the next two years are encouraged to attend. Call 253-6439.

Stress Management

Don't get stressed out! Take this lunchtime seminar on Tuesday from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Community Services Building, Room 115.

Family Day Brief

New family members are welcome to attend this orientation brief on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 253-3311.

Playmorning

Meet other families with children 1-6 years old at Playmorning, held in Building 589's community room on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Call 253-6553.

VEAP Conversion

Active duty Marines who have participated in the VEAP have until Oct. 31 to convert to the MGIB. Stop by the Education Services Office, first floor in Building 411, or call 253-3855 for more information.

Mother's Day Flowers

The last day to order Mother's Day flowers for Stateside delivery is May 9. For more information call 253-5641.

Essay Contest

The MCCS Preview is holding an essay contest through Tuesday under the theme "My Most Memorable Experience in Japan." First prize includes publication in the magazine and \$100 in MCCS gift certificates. Call 253-6373 or visit www.mccsiwakuni.com.

Chapel Services



Chapel News

(1) Chapel Annex (2) Marine Memorial Center

Roman Catholic

Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass (2)

Sunday 9 a.m. Mass (2)

Protestant

Saturday 9:30 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist (1)

Sunday 10 a.m. Church of Christ (2)

10:30 a.m. General Protestant (2)

noon Gospel Service (2)

noon United Pentecostal (2)

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 12:30 p.m. Service (1)

Jewish

Friday 6 p.m. Shabat (2)

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other Command Religious Program/Chapel activity call the station Chapel at 253-5218. For information on Jewish services call Mark Zeid at 082-231-4008 after 6 p.m. or call the station Chapel.

Sports Briefs

Women's Basketball

Athletics is looking for participants to form a women's basketball league starting in May. Female air station personnel age 16 and older may participate. The Main Gym's babysitting co-op will be available during league activities. For more information call 253-5777.

Resumes Accepted

Athletics accepts resumes for varsity men's soccer coach until Tuesday. Status of Forces Agreement personnel age 16 and older may apply. Call 253-5777.

Bodybuilding

All bodybuilders age 16 and older may enter the annual Grand Prix Bodybuilding Championships, held at the Sakura Theater on May 5 during the Friendship Day events. For entry details or more information call 253-5051.

SCUBA Locker Opens

The SCUBA locker will open on Monday in the Main Gym. Hours of operation are Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m. They are closed holidays. The SCUBA certification classes will be offered May through November. For more information call 253-4966 or 5520.

Trial Time Change

The Main Gym will open one hour earlier on weekends for a trial period in May.

Fitness Programs

Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit offers a variety of fitness programs including aerobics, dance, martial arts, kickboxing, and yoga. For more information call Semper Fit at 253-5051 or 6359, or stop by the Main Gym.

The Scoreboard

Softball

April 20

Rooftop defeated Chain Gang, 11-9

Hit Squad defeated Snafu, 16-1

Slammers defeated Crash Crew, 12-10

Criminals defeated Jennys Kids, 27-7

Full Tilt defeated Tradition, 20-2

CSSD-36 defeated Power Plants, 14-8

April 23

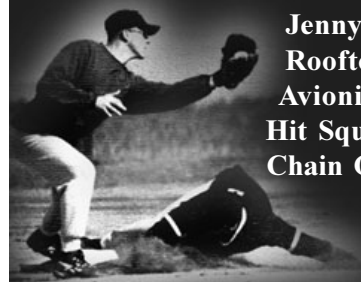
Logistics defeated Snafu, 18-1

Crash Crew defeated

Jenny's Kids, 14-12

Rooftop defeated
Avionics, 23-10

Hit Squad defeated
Chain Gang, 20-11



Youth Baseball swings into action



photos by Cpl. Joe Lindsay

Tony Jarrin, Marlins baseball player, takes a cut during batting practice.

by Cpl. Joe Lindsay
Torii Teller Staff

Opening ceremonies for Youth Baseball were rained out Saturday, but the weather didn't seem to dampen the spirits of players or coaches as teams continued to practice for the upcoming season which kicked off Thursday.

"The opening ceremony is more for the parents anyway," said Rich Jarrin, Marlins coach. "The kids just want to get out there and play."

Jarrin seems to read his players' feelings as well as a pitcher reads a catcher's signals.

"I can't wait for the games to start," said Brittany Streicher, Marlins baseball player. "Baseball is fun."

Fun is definitely a part of the core values for Youth Baseball, along with learning sportsmanship and teamwork.

"Youth sports is a great venue for character building," said Brian Wilson, Youth Sports coordinator. "Learning sportsmanship and teamwork at an early age is an important part of a child's upbringing and will help them down the road in life."

Many parents agreed with Wilson's assessment of the positive influence Youth Baseball can have on air station youngsters.

"In baseball you have to learn to work together," said Valerie Page, whose children participate in Youth Baseball. "It's the same in life, people have to work together."

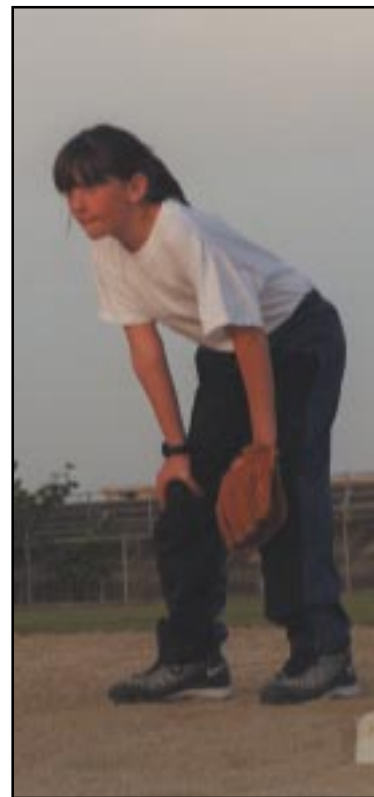
All 13 teams in Youth Baseball share the same names and uniform styles as teams in the Major Leagues, and each team has between 12 and 14 players on its roster.

The 12-game season, including playoffs and championship, runs through mid-July, though the emphasis is not placed on winning, according to Wilson.

"Every team makes the playoffs regardless of record," said Wilson.

In addition to the regularly scheduled games, Youth Baseball teams will also get a chance to play exhibition games with Japanese teams.

"These games are like a cultural exchange," said Wilson. "It gives the players from base and Japanese kids a chance to get to know one another better and build friendships through baseball."



The Marlins' Brittany Streicher keeps her concentration while covering first base during a recent practice.

"No matter where a child is from they love to go out and have fun and get dirty," said Tonya Cosby, Youth Sports assistant coordinator and mother of two Youth Baseball participants. "It makes me so happy to watch my kids have fun playing ball."

Japanese leave Tsunami swimmers in their wake

by Master Sgt. Constance Dillard
Public Affairs Chief

The MCAS Iwakuni Tsunami Swimming Club took the plunge April 15 during their first competitive match at the Main Gym. After months of planning and training they were up against seasoned swimmers of Fitness Club Ocean of Iwakuni City.

Tsunami started strong and dominated the first few events. Samantha Robinson took the gold in the first heat of the day, the 50-meter freestyle, ages nine to 11 with a time of 47 seconds - more than three seconds before runner up Keiichiro Morimoto. Molly Upton took the bronze with a time of 1:00 minute, and Robert Darby was hot on her heels with a time of 1:12.

Melissa Moreschi maintained the pace by grabbing the gold in the second heat of the meet, the 100-meter freestyle, ages 12-13, with a time of 1:23, just seven seconds before Heather Naber. Anri Nagawa pulled up the rear with a time of 1:36.

Those were the only two gold medals the Tsunami Swimming Club would bring home. In the third event and each that followed, Fitness Club Ocean dominated the lanes and swam away with a total of six gold, two silver and one bronze medal. Additionally, they took all four team events.

"The Tsunami team is fairly young in terms of experience," said Laura Ermovick, Tsunami coach. "This meet gave them insight into their strengths as well as areas they can improve. It was the first competitive meet for most of them, and we got two gold medals, six silver medals and one bronze."

The individual swimmers competed in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle, the 50- and 100-meter breaststroke, the 50- and 100-meter backstroke and the 50-meter butterfly. As a



photos by Master Sgt. Constance Dillard

(Left to right) Anri Sugiyama and Michira Nagai ask their coaches, Naoko Kubo and Kanako Ishibashi, how they are supposed to swim with the plastic Easter eggs during the last heat of the competition, the Easter Bunny Relay. Fitness Club Ocean took all four team events during the day's swim meet.

team they competed in the 200-meter freestyle relay, the 200-meter medley relay, the 200-meter kickboard relay and to add to the festive occasion the 200-meter Easter Bunny relay, which consisted of the swimmers clutching a plastic Easter egg in each hand and swimming 50-meters.

"I had a great time, and it was very interesting," said 10-year-old Michira Nagai, Fitness Club Ocean swimmer. "This is first time swimming with Easter eggs."

After the final heat of the day both teams gathered for the awards ceremony and pizza party afterward.

"I was looking forward to the meet and it

was a lot of fun," said the 10-year-old Upton. "The Japanese work really hard, have a lot more time together and did really good. But so did we."

The team plans on more swim meets in the future, either with local swim teams or possibly with other U.S. bases in Japan, according to Ermovick.

"Overall, I think the meet went great! I think both teams, as well as the parents and coaches, really enjoyed it," said Ermovick. "The highlight of the meet was seeing everyone on our team putting forth a strong effort and having a great time. It was also a wonderful opportunity to interact with our Japanese neighbors."



Rie Takasugi, 13 of Fitness Club Ocean, beats Rei Nagai, 14 of Fitness Club Ocean, during the 100-meter backstroke by less than a second for a winning time of 1:24:03.